In the Claims

1.   (Currently amended) A mobile unit comprising:

a wireless interface operable to:

couple to an initial base transceiver station (BTS) using an initial wireless link;

receive an indication to use a selection group in response to an initial metric associated with the initial wireless link falling below a threshold, wherein the selection group comprises a plurality of BTSs and the indication indicates to couple to the plurality of BTSs in the selection group using separate wireless links;

couple to a first BTS in the selection group using a first wireless link;

couple to a second BTS in the selection group using a second wireless link;

receive a first graded packet from ~~a first base transceiver station (BTS)~~ the first BTS using ~~a first~~ the first wireless link, wherein the first graded packet includes a first metric associated with the first wireless link; and

receive a second graded packet from ~~a second BTS~~ the second BTS using ~~a second~~ the second wireless link, wherein the second graded packet includes a second metric associated with the second wireless link; and

a processor operable to compare the first metric and the second metric and to select either the first graded packet or the second graded packet based on the comparison.

2.   (Original) The mobile unit of Claim 1, wherein the first graded packet further includes a packet identifier, and the second graded packet further includes the packet identifier.

3.   (Original) The mobile unit of Claim 1, wherein the first graded packet and the second graded packet each further includes voice information from a remote device.

4.   (Original) The mobile unit of Claim 3, further comprising an output device operable to generate an audio signal based on the voice information from the selected graded packet.

5.   (Original) The mobile unit of Claim 1, wherein the first metric is encoded in the first graded packet by the first BTS, and the second metric is encoded in the second graded packet by the second BTS.

6.   (Original) The mobile unit of Claim 1, wherein each of the first metric and the second metric is a selected one of a signal strength, a signal-to-noise ratio, a bit error rate, and a carrier-to-noise ratio.

7.   (Original) The mobile unit of Claim 1, further comprising an input device operable to receive voice information from a user, the processor further operable to generate a packet encoding the voice information, and the wireless interface further operable to communicate the packet for reception by the first BTS and the second BTS.

8. (Currently amended) A method for selecting between a plurality of packets received by a mobile unit, the method comprising:

establishing an initial wireless link using an initial base transceiver station (BTS);

receiving an indication to use a selection group in response to an initial metric associated with the initial wireless link falling below a threshold, wherein the selection group comprises a plurality of BTSs and the indication indicates to couple to the plurality of BTSs in the selection group using separate wireless links;

establishing a first wireless link with a first ~~base transceiver station (BTS)~~ BTS in the selection group;

establishing a second wireless link with a second BTS in the selection group;

receiving a first graded packet from the first BTS, wherein the first graded packet encodes a first metric associated with the first wireless link;

receiving a second graded packet from the second BTS, wherein the second graded packet encodes a second metric associated with the second wireless link;

comparing the first metric and the second metric; and

selecting either the first graded packet or the second graded packet based on the comparison.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8, wherein the first graded packet further includes a packet identifier, and the second graded packet further includes the packet identifier.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 8, wherein the first graded packet and the second graded packet each further includes voice information from a remote device.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10, further comprising generating an audio signal based on the voice information from the selected graded packet.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein the first metric is encoded in the first graded packet by the first BTS, and the second metric is encoded in the second graded packet by the second BTS.

13.   (Original) The method of Claim 8, wherein each of the first metric and the second metric is a selected one of a signal strength, a signal-to-noise ratio, a bit error rate, and a carrier-to-noise ratio.

14.   (Original) The method of Claim 8, further comprising:

receiving voice information from a user;

generating a packet encoding the voice information; and

communicating the packet for reception by the first BTS and the second BTS.

19. (Currently amended) A mobile unit comprising:

means for establishing an initial wireless link using an initial base transceiver station (BTS);

means for receiving an indication to use a selection group in response to an initial metric associated with the initial wireless link falling below a threshold, wherein the selection group comprises a plurality of BTSs and the indication indicates to couple to the plurality of BTSs in the selection group using separate wireless links;

means for establishing a first wireless link with a first ~~base transceiver station (BTS)~~ BTS in the selection group;

means for establishing a second wireless link with a second BTS in the selection group;

means for receiving a first graded packet from the first BTS, wherein the first graded packet encodes a first metric associated with the first wireless link;

means for receiving a second graded packet from the second BTS, wherein the second graded packet encodes a second metric associated with the second wireless link;

means for comparing the first metric and the second metric; and

means for selecting either the first graded packet or the second graded packet based on the comparison.

22. 16. (Original) The mobile unit of Claim 19, wherein the first graded packet further includes a packet identifier, and the second graded packet further includes the packet identifier.

24. 17. (Original) The mobile unit of Claim 19, wherein the first graded packet and the second graded packet each further includes voice information from a remote device.

25. 18. (Original) The mobile unit of Claim 24, further comprising means for generating an audio signal based on the voice information from the selected graded packet.

19. (Original) The mobile unit of Claim 15, wherein the first metric is encoded in the first graded packet by the first BTS, and the second metric is encoded in the second graded packet by the second BTS.

20. (Original) The mobile unit of Claim 18, wherein each of the first metric and the second metric is a selected one of a signal strength, a signal-to-noise ratio, a bit error rate, and a carrier-to-noise ratio.

21. (Original) The mobile unit of Claim 15, further comprising:

means for receiving voice information from a user;

means for generating a packet encoding the voice information; and

means for communicating the packet for reception by the first BTS and the second BTS.

22. (Currently amended) Software for selecting between a plurality of packets received by a mobile unit, the software embodied on a computer readable medium and operable to:

establish an initial wireless link using an initial base transceiver station (BTS);

receive an indication to use a selection group in response to an initial metric associated with the initial wireless link falling below a threshold, wherein the selection group comprises a plurality of BTSs and the indication indicates to couple to the plurality of BTSs in the selection group using separate wireless links;

establish a first wireless link with a first ~~base transceiver station (BTS)~~ BTS in the selection group;

establish a second wireless link with a second BTS in the selection group;

receive a first graded packet from the first BTS, wherein the first graded packet encodes a first metric associated with the first wireless link;

receive a second graded packet from the second BTS, wherein the second graded packet encodes a second metric associated with the second wireless link;

compare the first metric and the second metric; and

select either the first graded packet or the second graded packet based on the comparison.

23. (Original) The software of Claim 22, wherein the first graded packet further includes a packet identifier, and the second graded packet further includes the packet identifier.

24. (Original) The software of Claim 22, wherein the first graded packet and the second graded packet each further includes voice information from a remote device.

25. (Original) The software of Claim 24, further operable to generate an audio signal based on the voice information from the selected graded packet.

26. (Original) The software of Claim 22, wherein the first metric is encoded in the first graded packet by the first BTS, and the second metric is encoded in the second graded packet by the second BTS.

27. (Original) The software of Claim 22, wherein each of the first metric and the second metric is a selected one of a signal strength, a signal-to-noise ratio, a bit error rate, and a carrier-to-noise ratio.

28. (Original) The software of Claim 22, further operable to:

receive voice information from a user;

generate a packet encoding the voice information; and

communicate the packet for reception by the first BTS and the second BTS.

29.   (Withdrawn) A base transceiver station (BTS) comprising:

a network interface operable to receive a packet;

a processor operable to determine a metric associated with a wireless link between a wireless interface and a mobile unit and to generate a graded packet encoding information from the packet and the metric; and

the wireless interface operable to communicate the graded packet to the mobile unit.

30.   (Withdrawn) The BTS of Claim 29, wherein the processor is further operable to:

monitor the metric associated with the wireless link;

determine that the metric associated with the wireless link has degraded to a predetermined threshold; and

withdraw from a selection group associated with the mobile unit.

31.   (Withdrawn) The BTS of Claim 30, wherein the processor is further operable to instruct the mobile unit to discontinue receiving communications from the BTS on a Walsh code/frequency combination.

32.   (Withdrawn) The BTS of Claim 30, wherein the processor is further operable to instruct the wireless interface to discontinue receiving on a Walsh code/frequency combination associated with the mobile unit.

33.   (Withdrawn) The BTS of Claim 30, wherein the selection group comprises a plurality of BTSs each receiving packets for communication to the mobile unit as graded packets.

34.   (Withdrawn) The BTS of Claim 29, wherein the processor is further operable to:

monitor a metric associated with a second wireless link between the wireless interface and a second mobile unit;

determine that the metric associated with the second wireless link has exceeded a predetermined threshold; and

register with a selection group associated with the second mobile unit.

35.   (Withdrawn) The BTS of Claim 29, wherein the metric is a selected one of a signal strength, a signal-to-noise ratio, a bit error rate, and a carrier-to-noise ratio.

36.   (Withdrawn) The BTS of Claim 29, wherein:

the wireless interface is further operable to receive voice information from the mobile unit;

the processor is further operable to generate a second graded packet encoding the voice information and the metric, wherein the metric enables elements of a core packet network to select between multiple packets encoding the voice information; and

the network interface is further operable to communicate the graded packet to the core packet network.

37.   (Withdrawn) The BTS of Claim 29, wherein the metric in the graded packet enables the mobile unit to select between a plurality of graded packets received from a plurality of BTSs.

38. (New) The mobile unit of Claim 1, wherein the wireless interface is further operable to:

receive a second indication to discontinue use of the selection group and to use a primary BTS, wherein the primary BTS is a selected one of the BTSs in the selection group; and

receive a third packet from the primary BTS using a primary wireless link, wherein the third packet includes voice information from a remote device.

39. (New) The mobile unit of Claim 38, wherein the primary BTS is selected based on characteristics associated with the primary link.

40. (New) The method of Claim 8, further comprising:

determining to discontinue use of the selection group and to use a primary BTS, wherein the primary BTS is a selected one of the BTSs in the selection group; and

receiving a third packet from the primary BTS using a primary wireless link, wherein the third packet includes voice information from a remote device.

41. (New) The method of Claim 40, wherein the primary BTS is selected based on characteristics associated with the primary link.

42. (New) The mobile unit of Claim 15, further comprising:

means for determining to discontinue use of the selection group and to use a primary BTS, wherein the primary BTS is a selected one of the BTSs in the selection group; and

means for receiving a third packet from the primary BTS using a primary wireless link, wherein the third packet includes voice information from a remote device.

43. (New) The mobile unit of Claim 42, wherein the primary BTS is selected based on characteristics associated with the primary link.

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44.   (New) The software of Claim 42, further operable to:

determine to discontinue use of the selection group and to use a primary BTS, wherein the primary BTS is a selected one of the BTSs in the selection group; and

receive a third packet from the primary BTS using a primary wireless link, wherein the third packet includes voice information from a remote device.

45.   (New) The software of Claim 44, wherein the primary BTS is selected based on characteristics associated with the primary link.